

## Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 L-03 H-02 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /068 W

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R 291422Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ELAB VE

SUBJ: ORIT MEETING

SUMMARY THE MEETING HELD IN CARACAS PREPARATORY TO THE EXTRA-ORDINARY TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ORIT CONGRESS AGREED TO POSTPONE THE CONGRESS TO AUGUST TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF DECENTRALIZING ORIT, AND AGREED TO THE ELECTION OF NEW ORIT OFFICERS AT THE CONGRESS. THE CTV PRESENTED A GENERAL PORPOSAL FOR ORIT REORGANIZATION WITH WHICH THE AFL-CIO DID NOT COMPLETELY AGREE. DESPITE THESE DIFFERENCES THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND EVENTUAL COMPROMISE SEEMS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. A SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERAMERICAN REGIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ORIT) MET IN CARACAS IN MID-JANAURY TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY ORIT CONGRESS CELEBRATING ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD HERE AUG 10-14. ONE OF THE FEW CONCRETE DECISIONS MADE AT THE JANAURY MEETING  
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WAS TO POSTPONE THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS FROM MAY TO AUGUST.

THIS WILL ALLOW THE SPECIAL COMMISSION TO MEET AGAIN IN GENEVA IN JUNE DURING THE ILO CONFERENCE AND WILL ALLOW TIME FOR YET A THIRD MEETING IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST IF SOME LAST MINUTE SNAGS ARE ENCOUNTERED IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON RESTRUCTURING ORIT. THE VENEZUELAN PRESENTED A LENGTHY LIST OF WRITTEN PROPOSALS FOR ORIT REORGANIZATION. THE AFL-CIO COMMENTED ON THESE PROPOSALS AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH, UNDERLINING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) POSITION. DESPITE AFL-CIO OBJECTIONS TO PROVISIONS STRENGTHENING ORIT'S TIES WITH THE ICFTU AND PROVISIONS ALLUDING TO THIRD WORLD AND OPEC POSITIONS ON SOME OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE DAY, THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE CTV SEEMS CONVINCED THAT GROUNDS FOR FULL AGREEMENT EXIST. A CTV SOURCE STATES THAT "THE AFL-CIO AGREES WITH 80PERCENT OF WHAT WE PROPOSE AND DISAGREES WITH 20PERCENT BUT THE 20PERCENT IS NEGOTIABLE." THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE JUNE ILO SESSION WILL BE USED TO REFINE POSITIONS AND FOR BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS OF THE CTV DRAFT.

2. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-REGIONAL OFFICES OF ORIT, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE HDQTED IN CARACAS. THERE ARE STILL SOME DIFFERENCES OVER THE COMPOSITION OF EACH SUB-REGION. REPORTEDLY THE HEADS OF THE SUB-REGIONAL OFFICES WILL SERVE WITHOUT PAY AND WILL RECEIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THE HOST COUNTRY LABOR CENTRAL. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT NEW ORIT OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS IN AUGUST.

3. ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING WAS LIMITED TO MCLELLAN AND BOGGS (AFL-CIO), HARKER (CLC), CAMACHO (CTM AND PRESIDENT OF ORIT), MALAVE (CTV), ECHEVERRY (ORIT SECRETARY GENERAL), ESTRADA (ORIT SECRETARY-TREASURER) AND AGUIRIANO (ICFTU). DELEGATES FROM PUERTO RICO, PERU, AND BRAZIL FAILED TO ATTEND. THE ICFTU'S JOSE ANTONIO AGUIRIANO MADE A PARTICULARLY STRONG AND POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. BOTH AFL-CIO AND CTV REPRESENTATIVES CONTRASTED HIS KNOWLEDGEABLENESS, OPENESS, AND GENERALLY REASONABLE ATTITUDE WITH THAT OF MIGUEL ANGEL MARTINEZ WHO MADE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION AS THE ICFTU OBSERVER AT THE CTV CONGRESS LAST MAY (CARACAS A-174). ARGENTINA FAILED TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE ORIT MEETING ALTHOUGH SEVERAL CGT LEADERS INCLUDING ELEUTERIO CARDOZO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE IN CARACAS ATTENDING THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AND THE INTERAMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEXTILE, GARMENT, AND LEATHER WORKERS (FITITVC) MEETINGS. THE CGT REPRESENTATIVES CONDUCTED BI-LATERAL TALKS WITH MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ORIT MEETING BUT REFUSED ACTUALLY TO ATTEND THE SESSIONS PLEADING A LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CGT.

4. COMMENT: THE MEETINGS WERE CORDIAL AT ALL TIMES. THE

DELEGATES WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ WHO PROMISED  
FULL GOV SUPPORT FOR THE CONGRESS AND CALLED FOR A REVITALIZED  
ORIT WHICH COULD PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE. DIS-  
AGREEMENTS WERE FULLY AND FRANKLY AIRED, BUT THERE WAS A GENERAL  
FEELING OF OLD FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND GENUINE COMMON  
GROUND. LITTLE WAS DEFINITELY RESOLVED BUT PROGRESS TOWARD  
RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES WAS MADE. THE LATINS  
FINALLY MADE SPECIFIC WRITTEN PROPOSALS TO THE AFL-CIO WHICH  
WILL BE THE BASIS OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. THE ABSENCE OF PERU  
IN PARTICULAR WAS KEENLY FELT BY THE CTV (IT HAD SENT A PREPAID  
TICKET TO JULIO CRUZADO) BUT THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT IF  
THE AFL-CIO CTM AND CTV CAN AGREE TO A COMMON POSITION ON  
THE FUTURE SHAPE OF ORIT, THE REST OF THE HEMISPHERE, WITH  
THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE CGT, WILL ACQUIESCE.  
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